## REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4-7, 10-13 and 15-17 are amended for clarity and consistency. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Patel during the August 12, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

## I.    The Claims Are Patentable Over The Applied Reference

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over European Patent Publication No. EP 1 286 254 to Ito[1]. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Regarding independent claims 1, 10-13 and 16-17, Ito fails to disclose:

(1) "the at least one instruction form <u>includes instructions indicating a plurality of processing to be executed</u> by a plurality of instruction form execution apparatus" (emphasis added, claims 1, 11 and 16-17, and similarly recited in claims 10 and 12);

(2) "at least one instruction form <u>associated with a</u> [or "<u>the</u>"] <u>user</u>" (emphasis and comment added, claims 1, 10-13 and 16-17) and "wherein ... the at least one instruction form is <u>associated with the user information</u>" (emphasis added, claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 10, 13 and 16);

(3) "a reception part that receives information <u>on a</u> [or "<u>the</u>"] <u>user</u>" (emphasis and comment added, claims 1 and 10, and similarly in claim 13);

(4) "a retrieval part that retrieves one of the at least one instruction form accessible to the user from the instruction form management apparatus <u>based on the received information on the user</u>" (emphasis added, claims 1 and 10 and similarly in claims 13 and 16);

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[1] The Office Action identifies the applied reference as Tetsuo, the inventor's first name. Ito, the inventor's surname, is used herein to identify the applied reference.

(5) "an output part that outputs identification information on the retrieved instruction form to allow the user to select a process from the plurality of processing indicated in the retrieved instruction form and instruct one or more of the plurality of instruction form execution apparatuses connected to the instruction form retrieval apparatus via the network to carry out the selected process" (claims 1, 10, and similarly in claim 13);

(6) "a storage part that stores user information" (claims 1, 10 and 16, and similarly recited in claim 13);

(7) "a retrieval part that retrieves information on the instruction form management apparatus holding the at least one instruction form accessible to the user based on the information on the user" (emphasis added, claim 16); and

(8) "an attachment part that attaches a portable storage medium capable of being carried by a user that stores at least one selectable instruction form" (emphasis added, claim 17 and similarly recited in claims 11-12).

Ito discloses a multifunctional image forming device, MF-apparatus 1200 (Fig. 1), able to interact with a single function image processing device, SF-apparatus 100, over a network. Regarding independent claims 1, 10, 13 and 16, the Office Action cites to Figs. 1 and 12 and paragraphs [0005]-[0008]. The Office Action provides no citations of any reference characters corresponding to elements in Ito that allegedly correspond to the claimed features. In the cited paragraphs, Ito states that an image forming apparatus (MF-apparatus 1200) is associated with other apparatus on a network, the image forming apparatus having a screen allowing a user to set a function which is used by one of the other apparatus to perform processing.

More specifically, Ito discloses a document list screen G660 (Fig. 11) that enables the user to (1) select an apparatus from a list of apparatuses (Fig. 12, step S94), and (2) select a

document from a list of documents (Fig. 12, step S98), after which the document can be processed by the selected apparatus.

Regarding independent claims 11-12 and 17, the Office Action additionally cites to paragraphs [0121]-[0125] (relating to Fig. 12) and paragraphs [0157]-[0170] (relating to Figs. 17-18) as allegedly disclosing a user selectable form in XML language; and cites to Fig. 1 as allegedly disclosing "other hardware resources that are external and connected to the MF-apparatus".

Paragraphs [0121]-[0125] describe the operation of the flowchart of Fig. 12. A user selects button 651 (Fig. 11; Fig. 12, step S91) to initiate a process. In turn, the SF-apparatus 100 displays a list of apparatus names in the display area 610 (Fig. 12, step S93; col. 30, lines 42-44). The user then selects, for example, MF-apparatus 1200 (Fig. 12, step S94; col. 30, lines 45-47). In turn, the SF-apparatus 100 lists the documents that can be processed by the MF-apparatus 1200 in the display area 620 (Fig. 12, step S95; col. 30, line 54 to col. 31, line 3). The user then selects a document to be processed (Fig. 12, step S98; col. 31, lines 3-5).

Paragraphs [0157]-[0170] disclose an embodiment similar to that disclosed by paragraphs [0121]-[0125], discussed above, but that uses simple object access protocol (SOAP) and extensible markup language (XML) in a web-based version.

Ito fails to disclose feature (1) quoted above because Ito's web interface (document list screen G660) provides a list of apparatus and a list of documents for the user to select from. However, a list of apparatus and a list of documents are not "instructions indicating a plurality of processing", as claimed. During the personal interview, Examiner Patel confirmed that he considers the document list screen G660, to correspond to the claimed instruction form. However, the document list screen G660 does not contain instructions (the user first selects an apparatus and then selects a document to be processed, but document list screen G660 itself does not contain any instructions indicating a plurality of processing), as claimed.

Ito fails to disclose feature (2) quoted above because Ito does not disclose any instruction form that contains instructions indicating a plurality of processing that is associated with a user. While Examiner Patel, as discussed above, confirmed at the personal interview that he believes that document list screen G660 corresponds to the claimed instruction form, the document list screen G660 is not associated with the user, and is not stored in a manner associated with user information, as claimed.

Ito fails to disclose feature (3) quoted above of a reception part that receives information on a user because Ito does not disclose reception of information on a user. In contrast, the input of the user is limited to selection of which apparatus to utilize and which document is to be processed.

Ito fails to disclose feature (4) quoted above of a retrieval part that retrieves an instruction form accessible to the user from the instruction form management apparatus based on the received information on the user because the user selects "document list apparatus" button 1218 (Fig. 1) to have the document list screen G660 displayed (paragraph [0118]). I.e., the document list screen G660 is displayed as a result of the user selecting "document list apparatus" button 1218, not based on information on the user, as claimed.

Ito fails to disclose feature (5) quoted above of an output part that outputs identification information on the retrieved instruction form because Ito discloses that the user selects button 651 to display a list of apparatuses that can be used to process documents. Once an apparatus is selected, the processing to take place is already determined. Further, the list of apparatuses is provided by the SF-appliance 100 but is not derived from any instruction form, thus the claimed output part that outputs identification information on the retrieved instruction form is not taught.

Ito fails to disclose feature (6) quoted above for reasons similar to those stated for feature (3) as discussed above.

Ito fails to disclose feature (7) quoted above for reasons similar to those stated for feature (4) as discussed above.

Ito fails to disclose feature (8) quoted above because Ito does not disclose use of any portable medium. While the Office Action cites to "other hardware resources 1203" (Fig. 1) as corresponding to this feature, Ito does not disclose that this feature includes any removable/portable storage medium. Further, Ito discloses that Fig. 2 shows the hardware of the apparatus of Fig. 1, but Fig. 2 likewise does not show any removable or portable storage device.
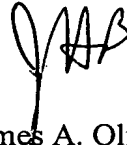
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

## II. <u>Conclusion</u>

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

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